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Myths and Rites of the Khonds.

AN ABORIGINAL BACE OF INDIA. "Bard of the Khonds! now tell to me What means you girl bound to a tree?"-"A Meriah, doomed to die! "-quoth he-"The rite, which sheds the blood of man In sacrifices, thus began : "-

THE MERIAH Once Tari Pennu cut her finger, While she was chopping wood ; In crimson drops upon the rice-field

Fell Tari Pennu's blood ! Then on the rice-fields came a dryness, The rice grew parch'd and red ; It had the color of the shower

That from the Goddess bled ! In fear the Khonds, both men and women, Unto the Goddess pray'd : "O, Tari Pennu! our Earth-goddess The rice dies in the blade!"

Said Tari Pennu to the Janui-He is the Khonds' high-priest :-"O, Janui! Janui! slay a victim; Then shall the drought have ceas'd! "

Of birds and beasts, reptiles and fishes, The Janni victims slew; But still the rice-fields seem'd to wither, And dryer each day grew!

The Janni prayed to Tari Pennu:-"O, our Earth-goddens! say, Wherefor the blood of all these victims Is idly thrown away?" Said Tari Pennu to the Janni :-"Thou art the Khonds' high-priest!

Yet wist thou not what kind of victim To slay for Tari's feast? Nor bird, nor beast, nor fish, nor reptile, For sacrifice is good ; In Tari's nostrils is most grateful

The smell of human blood! Jannie! thou hast an only daughter, Of Khonds the sweetest maid ! Her beautious body on my altar Still living must be laid!

Each husbandman from her live body A piece of ficsh shall tear, And in the centre of his rice-field Shall bury it with pray'r! Then rain shall fall upon the rice-field, Straightway the drought shall cease; And all who worship Tari Pennu Shall live in plenteous peace!

The Janni bound upon the altar His daughter young and fresh; Each husbandman from her live body Tore off a bit of flesh ! And while his wife and children shouted Full many a charm and spell,

In his rice-fleid the flesh he buried, With imprecations fell ! Down pour'd the rain! the moisten'd rice fields, Abundant harvest bore!-The Khonds, theuceforth, a Meriak offer'd

In droughts, for ever more! Uncouthly thus relates the Khond The old traditions of his race, From distant ages, far beyond The dates which Vedic records trace. To shed the blood tho' still he loves Of Meriahs in his sacred groves, Secret and dark must be the deed By which his human victims bleed ; For, Britain's just and stringent laws, Fram'd in Humanity's fair cause, On pain of death the rite forbid, Still in the Indian jungle hid Among the savege Khonds-whereby The Merian lone is doom'd to die! Soon may the flood of gospel light, With glorious beams, divinely bright, Illume the Khond's dark solitudes, Assunge his sanguinary moods, Teach him to see, with trustful eyes, Jesus who lives beyond the skies-Thus, may the Meriah's doom, at last, Become a dark tale of the past !

VARIETY.

ANXIOUS .- Spicer is anxious to know if merchant who advertises "full lines of underclothing " is connected with the party who walked off with last week's wash from the back-yard. Except.-In Philadelphia an effort has been made to introduce the needle into the public schools. The girls don't want it, but the boys think it a great improvement on bent pins, except that it requires more ingenuity to make it stand straight on the teacher's chair.

INEVITABLE DESTINY .- Zeno, the philosopher, believed in an inevitable destiny. His servant availed himself of this doctrine one day, while being beaten for a theft, by exclaiming, "Was I not destined to rob?" "Yes," replied Zeno, " and also to be corrected."

Subsequently.-It was a Vassar girl who, when a sailor of forty years' voyagings had been pointed out to her as an "old salt," subsequentalluded to him as an "ancient chloride of

ETHNOLOGY.—They were at a dinner party, and he remarked that he supposed she was fond of ethnology. She said she was, but she was not very well, and the doctor had told her not to eat anything for dessert except oranges.

Nor One-Half .- We suppose that when the entire Russian army went marching over the pontoon bridge it didn't make one-half the clattering that a ten-year-old does when he walks down one flight of stairs.

Jennie has strict ideas about equity in small things. When she first heard the story of the Savior's miracle in feeding the multitude with the few loaves and fishes obtained from the young lad's basket, she was awed into thoughtful and solemn amazement. Some time afterward in the midst of a talk about other matters, she suddenly paused and asked, with special concern: "Did they give back the basket to

that boy?" "I think, my dear," as he took his night shirt from under the pillow, "that we'll give a dinner bye and bye, and have Sherry—"
"Rutherford!" said Mrs. Hayes.

ple," continued the commander-in-chief, as he

adroitly slipped into bed and left Mrs. H. to tuck up the baby and turn down the gas .-Boston Commercial Bulletin.

Can a wife steal her husband's property?
This question recently arose before the English
Court for consideration of Crown cases reserved, where only criminal cases are heard. The prisoner who had been a police constable, was convicted of receiving stolen money and goods, which he knew had been stolen from the prosecutor, an innkeeper at Burslem. The thest was alleged to have been committed by the innkeeper's wife. She had undoubtedly left her husband's house secretly, and without his consent carrying away with her about \$700 of his money, his gold watch and other articles, which she transferred to the prisoner. But his counsel contended that there could be no felonious receiver of stolen goods, without there first being a thief, and that the conviction was wrong, because a married woman could not in law steal the goods of her husband. The Court so held, and quashed the conviction, saying that although the goods were taken by the wife, they were not

stolen; that husband and wife were one, and

"it would be a violation of the law of England

to hold that a wife could steal her husband's

goods."-[Fresno Expositor

THRUM & OAT,



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HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, AUGUST 25, 1877.

WHOLE NO. 1109

Business Cards.

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